

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting

June 10, 2008 MINUTES
Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Joe DeVito (Chair), Marianne Cook, Richard Dyer, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Officer Jim O'Loughlin, Stephanie Pelkowsky, John Staulo, Robert Staulo, Sharon O. Stout, Students: Theresa Staulo

Regrets: Anthony Bibbo, Donna Gordon, Joanne Kazarian, Stephen Ross, Terance Sack, Kirsten Tuohy; Students: Greg Kelley, Kira Mascho, Devin Perry, Katie Sanders

Staff: Beverly Droz, Director, Human and Volunteer Services

Guests: Chris Fortunato (formerly of Teen Reach) & Ellen Manning – Teen Reach

NOTE: Tonight was the Youth Commission's **6th annual Youth Service Award Dinner** at 6:30pm. The annual Youth Service Award for 2008 was given to Debra D'Arcy in recognition of her distinguished career on behalf of the youth as Juvenile Probation Officer. (Event Program will be attached to minutes in office file.) Terry Sack and Stephan Ross were able to attend the dinner but not stay for the meeting. Joe presented student advisory members with Certificates of Appreciation and for those not present, Bev will mail their certificates.

The meeting was opened at 7:50pm, and was chaired by Joe DeVito. We welcomed Chris Fortunato, former director of Teen Reach.

A motion to accept the minutes of May 7, 2008 was passed.

Nominations

A motion to accept the nominations of Maya Guttman (NNHS) and Jennifer Krems (NSHS) for the Youth Commission Advisory Board passed.

A motion to accept the nomination of Ellen Manning (Teen Reach) for the Youth Commission Advisory Board passed.

Treasurer's report:

Bev reported that the final FCD bill was about \$150 less than expected, and that following the cost of the Award Dinner (approx. \$500) we will have about \$150 left. She'll buy office & program supplies next week so that we utilize all of the funds in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget which closes June 30th. Bev expects the FY2008-09 budget to again be \$2,500. The YC revolving account balance is \$606.12

School Updates: none

Advocacy:

Joe read an email from Ellen Manning regarding the budget cuts of Youth Police Officers. She had called local area police stations to find out how many youth officers they had in their departments.

| Town/City | Population | # of Full Time Youth Officers |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Waltham | 68,000 | 9 |
| Brookline | 58,000 | 10 |
| Framingham | 67,000 | 6 |
| Acton | 22,000 | 3 |
| Newton | 84,000 | 4 |

Linda detailed the work Teen Reach does with at-risk teens, and that there have been budget cuts to other youth services override not passing. The Public Schools have laid off their 6 social workers. Bev has lost her administrator in the Human Services division. There are more burdens on less staff and meanwhile there are increasing problems with youth.

There was discussion about writing a letter to Police Chief O'Brien advocating that the Youth Officer positions not be cut. A matching letter of information would go to Judge Klein. There was discussion about copying the letter to the Chief to the Aldermen, key staff and the Newton TAB, but it was decided to send it to the Mayor first. **A motion was made** by Peter Harrington and 2nd by Bob Staulo to write these letters, and was approved unanimously.

Other Business

- Bev reported that the Youth Interagency Task Force met June 3rd and had a presentation about the Newton Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2006-07).
- Stephanie reported that Parks & Recreation's Youth Service Awards will be June 16 with 5 awards based on age levels.

Programs:

Autumn Invasion:

We will try to convene a meeting with students over the summer to start planning this October event. Bev noted that her assistant had been a tremendous help last year but her position was cut. Ellen Manning offered to have NCSC's Teen Reach involved and help however she can.

Youth Foundation Sub-Committee Report: none

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting: Wed, SEPT. 3 at 7:00pm in the City Hall cafeteria